

TREE CANOPY CODE AMENDMENTS SCOPE

Definitions

- Evaluate reducing the threshold diameter definition for significant trees
- Develop list of alternative threshold diameters for naturally large or small tree species common in Bellevue
- Replace subjective terms, including “healthy”, with objective criteria aligned with arboriculture industry standards
- Develop permanent definition of landmark tree
- Develop definition for hazardous trees

Tree Removal

- Implement requirement to obtain an attainable¹ permit to remove any significant tree
- Discourage lot clearing before development
- Other clean ups to facilitate administration of the clearing and grading code

Tree Retention

- Clarify duration for retained trees
- Evaluate developing minimum tree density standard to replace existing percentage retention approach
- Update retention criteria for better alignment with tree canopy goals and to encourage retaining “the right tree in the right place”

Tree Replacement

- Evaluate expanding tree replacement requirements

Enforcement

- Evaluate imposing financial penalties for tree violations, particularly repeat violations
- Codify key tree protection measures during construction
- Evaluate implementing inspections for tree retention compliance

¹ This permit should be affordable and require minimal effort by the applicant. The form would be designed to flag instances where additional review and/or permitting is required.